

USING THE OCTAVES

12/8 SHUFFLE (Left Hand)

The great thing about piano is you can clearly see all the octaves. They all look exactly the same! So if you learn a riff in one octave you can EASILY move it up or down the piano to another octave. Even better is when you can LINK two or three duplicate riffs together to take you up the piano and then use another riff or run to bring you all the way down again.

Try the following exercise and then introduce it into your 12 bar blues.

Three PICK-UP's and a BLUES SCALE run

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a 12/8 shuffle exercise. The first system consists of two staves. The treble staff contains three measures, each starting with a pickup note (C4) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (E4, G4, A4). Red arrows labeled "Slide" point to the pickup notes. Above the treble staff, the notes C, E, G, and A are written in red. The bass staff contains a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. The second system also consists of two staves. The treble staff contains a descending blues scale run: C4, Bb4, G4, Gb4, F4, Eb4, C4, Bb4, G4, Gb4, F4, C4, Bb4, G4, F4. Red dots mark each note, and red arrows indicate the downward motion. Above the treble staff, the notes C, Bb, G, Gb, F, Eb, C, Bb, G, Gb, F, C, Bb, G, F are written in red. Below the treble staff, the fingering 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 1 is written in red. Below the entire system, the text "C BLUES SCALE - downwards motion" is written in red. The bass staff contains a continuous eighth-note accompaniment.